



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2003-005

WHEREAS the children of New Mexico are our future and their general welfare, safety, and livelihood are of the utmost priority;

WHEREAS it is vital that New Mexico be made a better place for our children to grow up and live their lives;

WHEREAS, current statistics indicate that we are facing a crises when it comes to our children. For example:

1. highest number of teen deaths by accident, murder or suicide
2. highest number of children in poverty
3. lowest percentage of kids who have been immunized
4. 48th in teen birth rate.

WHEREAS in light of this serious situation, a proactive, goal specific approach is warranted;

WHEREAS there is a need for closer coordination and cross-departmental communication between all state agencies charged with addressing the needs of our children to ensure that we are maximizing results for our children;

WHEREAS, in recognition that the children of New Mexico are our cherished responsibility;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby create the Children's Cabinet as follows:

1. The Cabinet shall consist of the Lieutenant Governor in the position of Chairperson, and the Agency Heads of the following departments: Children, Youth and Families Department, Corrections Department, Human Services Department, Labor Department, Health Department, Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Economic Development, Department of Public Safety, State Agency on Aging, and the Education Department upon its establishment.

2. The Cabinet shall meet no less than six times per year.

3. The Cabinet shall meet at least twice a year with children's advocates, professionals, educators, health care providers, and representatives from the Youth Council, upon the Council's establishment.

4. Each Cabinet member shall name an existing employee in his or her respective agency as Children's Cabinet liaison to enhance cross-communication between the agencies and to solve cross-jurisdictional issues in an efficient, effective, and expeditious manner.

5. The Cabinet's goals shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. All children in New Mexico achieve literacy by the end of the third grade; and
- b. Strive to increase the availability of health insurance to our children; and
- c. Strive to ensure that all of our children receive proper immunizations; and
- d. Strive to increase the availability of childcare to parents working their way off welfare; and
- e. Remove administrative barriers to obtaining public assistance; and
- f. Track the State of New Mexico's indicators concerning children and their health, education, safety, and economic growth.

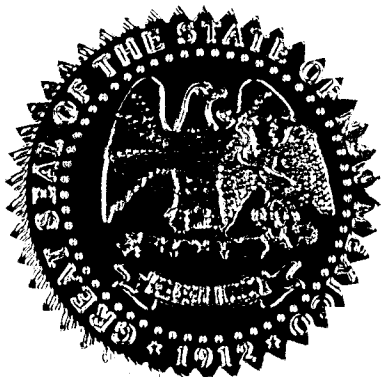
The Cabinet shall seek to achieve these goals in a timely fashion.

6. The Cabinet shall strive to coordinate programs and improve and streamline services to children.

ATTEST



REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE



DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 5 TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2003.
WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR